

Executive Director Report
July 24, 2008

Budget

- \$30,900 in member contributions for FY 07-08 has been received, to date. An additional \$35,000 (cumulative member contribution) has been received from the Department of Water Resources.
- Contract completed for award of grant funding for Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum (\$14,750 to DPC as co-partner with Yolo Basin Foundation and Center for Collaborative Policy - CSUS); and contract in final stage of processing for Working Landscapes projects (\$39,000 to DPC, as co-partner with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy and Hart Restoration).
- Anticipate California Coastal Conservancy consideration of grant application for Delta Trail Planning in September.
- Preparing grant application (approximately \$300,000) for Solano County Kinder Morgan Fund for Delta Trail Planning for Highway 780 bicycle/pedestrian Overcrossing link between Benicia State Recreation Area, Ridge Trail, and Bay Trail with partners to include ABAG, Solano Transportation Authority, City of Benicia, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, Benicia State Recreation Area, Solano Audubon Society, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and others.
- Contra Costa County approved on June 17, 2008, \$350,000 for Delta Trail planning.
- Anticipate CalTrans notification in July regarding DPC partnership application submitted for Delta Trail in the amount of \$300,000.
- Invoices for FY 08-09 member contributions are being prepared.

Administration/Staffing

- Staff is recruiting for the Supervising Environmental Planner (Deputy Director Special Projects) position left vacant with the Retirement of Suzanne Butterfield. Suzanne will be on staff as a retired annuitant (part-time) pending the filling of the position.

Legislation

The following legislation relevant to the Delta is being monitored by staff:

AB 1806 (Wolk) Fish and Wildlife Emergency Rescue;
AB 2501 (Wolk) Water Planning;
AB 2502 (Wolk) Delta Ecological Restoration and Recreation Areas;

AB 2503 (Wolk) Delta Protection Commission Alternates (awaiting Governor's signature);

AB 2504 (DeSaulnier) Delta Tourism and Marketing Plan;

AB 2913 (Salas) Delta Conservancy; and

AB 2938 (DeLeon) Water Diversions; Fish Monitoring.

SB 27 (Simitian) Delta Emergency Preparedness and Response;

SB 1102 (Machado) Bay Delta Authority;

SB 1108 (Machado) Delta Conservancy Program; and

SB 1543 (Machado) Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Provided testimony to Senate Natural Resources Committee as to consistency of AB 2504 with the Delta Protection Act and the policies of the Commission's Management Plan.

Met with Senator Simitian to provide overview of the Delta Protection Act and the Commission.

Met with Congresswoman Tauscher's new District Director.

Projects/Facilitation

- Conducted public workshops (facilitated by Commission staff and the Center for Collaborative Process) to initiate the Management Plan Update process.
- Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum process (co-sponsored by the Commission and the Yolo Basin Foundation with support from Center for Collaborative Policy and funding from Department of Fish and Game) kick-off tour and meeting was held on June 25, 2008.
- Facilitated meetings of the Delta Mercury Collaborative and coordinated efforts to prepare a letter from the Collaborative to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board relative to encouraging an enhanced process for facilitating opportunities for stakeholder input relative to the development of a Delta Mercury TMDL.
- "A Strategy for Collaborative Emergency Response Planning in the California Delta Region – Phase 1 Report" was released as part of the Delta Emergency Planning and Response process co-facilitated by OES and DPC in coordination with DWR, Corps, Coast Guard and Delta Counties Emergency Planning Team, and with support from Center for Collaborative Policy.
- Moderated local government panels before the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.

- Convened discussions of the Delta Agricultural Conservation Easement Group, including all five county agricultural commissioners, in the development of a white paper potentially leading to establishing goals and principles for a Delta ag easement program to be utilized as a tool by interested and responsible entities.
- Made a presentation of current projects underway by the Commission to the CALFED Agency Coordination Team.

Public Affairs/Outreach

- Participated as panel member at Delta Town Hall meetings (convened by Resources Agency) in Suisun City, Walnut Grove and Stockton.
- Presented information about the Delta Protection Act and the Commission at the Solano County Mayor's Conference.
- Presented to the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors during budget hearings to provide information relative to Commission member contributions.
- Participated as a panel member and resource person on the Water Education Foundation Delta Tour.
- Provided an exhibit about the Delta Protection Act and the Commission at Keep the Delta Clean Day sponsored by the California Coastal Commission, the Department of Boating and Waterways, Contra Costa County and others.
- Attended the California Conservation Corps 75th Anniversary and Statue Dedication.
- Presented information about the Delta Protection Act and the Commission to the California Public Utilities Commission.
- Attended the California Utilities Emergency Response Association Annual Meeting.
- Participated in Resources Agency Department Head meetings.
- Participated in Resources Agency PIO Team meetings.